THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The Government intends to develop Inland Water Transport mode through plan assistance and private sector participation. No specific long-term plan has been drawn up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Projects for welfare of disabled in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

1316. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed any project(s) for the welfare of the disabled in collaboration with the Stale Governments and Rehabilitation Council of India in the Stales of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh:

(b) if **so,** the details **of** such project(s);

(c) the funds proposed for the same; and

(d) the other steps Government have taken, till date, to improve the standard of living of the disabled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) A number of schemes and programmes are beini^ supported for education, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities through the National Institutes, Composite Rehabilitation Centres. Regional Rehabilitation Centres and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are also assisted under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme) and Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP). Soft loans are provided by National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) for self-employment ventures. 3% reservation in identified posts is provided in Government and semi- Government organizations. 3% earmarking is also there under poverty alleviation programmes. In addition, various States are also providing facilities and concessions like pension, unemployment allowance, transport subsidies, etc.